

# Getting Started

## Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)

**IMPORTANT:** This getting started guide and the instructions are not legal advice. They are only meant to help you learn how to get a divorce when you and your spouse do not have children together. Your use of the forms does not guarantee you will be successful in court.

To learn how to fill out the forms and file them with the court, read the *How to Get a Divorce (No Children)* instruction sheet and the instructions on the forms.

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| <b>Name of the forms:</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Petition for Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)</i></li> <li>• <i>Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)</i></li> <li>• <i>Summons</i> (if needed)</li> <li>• <i>Divorce Entry of Appearance</i> (if needed)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Purpose of the forms:</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ask a judge for a divorce or to end a civil union.</li> <li>• To notify your spouse that you have done this.</li> <li>• To give the judge a way to end the marriage or civil union.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Types of cases the forms CAN be used for:</b>                               | Divorce or ending a civil union when you and your spouse do not have children together.   |
| <b>Types of cases the forms CANNOT be used for:</b>                            | <p>The form cannot be used if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You and your spouse have or adopted children together;</li> <li>• You or your spouse is pregnant; OR</li> <li>• 3. You do not have an address for your spouse.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Cost to file the forms:</b>   | <p>There is a fee for filing. If you cannot afford to pay the filing fee, you can ask the court to file for free by filing the <i>Application for Waiver of Court Fees</i> found at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/">http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/</a></p>   |
| <b>Special information or papers that will help you to complete the forms:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date and place of the marriage/civil union;</li> <li>• Date you and your spouse separated;</li> <li>• Addresses for you and your spouse;</li> <li>• Place of employment for you and your spouse;</li> <li>• Whether you or your spouse receives Social Security;</li> <li>• Whether you or your spouse is pregnant;</li> <li>• Whether you and/or your spouse own or have an interest in real estate;</li> <li>• Whether you and/or your spouse have a pension/ retirement account;</li> <li>• A list of your personal property; AND</li> <li>• A list of your debts.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Statutes covering the forms:</b>  | <a href="#">(750 ILCS 5/)</a> Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act.  |
| <b>For more information:</b>   | <p>Read the <i>HOW TO GET A DIVORCE (No Children)</i> instructions that come with the form. You may also find more information and resources at the courthouse or by going to:</p> <p><a href="http://www.illinoislegalaid.org">www.illinoislegalaid.org</a>.</p>   |

# HOW TO GET A DIVORCE (NO CHILDREN)

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### **WARNING:**

You cannot use this guide and the forms unless you have an address for your spouse or partner.

This guide gives general instructions on how to complete a simple divorce case.

It cannot and does not cover everything that might happen in a divorce case. If you do not understand whether these instructions apply to your case, you should speak with a lawyer.

How divorce cases are handled by a judge can vary from county to county.

There may be requirements in your county that are not covered in these instructions. Ask the Circuit Clerk if your county has local rules and, if so, where you can get a copy.

# INTRODUCTION TO GETTING A DIVORCE IN ILLINOIS (NO CHILDREN)

These instructions apply to marriages and civil unions. If the instructions say:

- “marriage” it also means “civil union”; AND
- “spouse” it also means “partner.”

## Can I ask the court for a divorce in Illinois?

You can ask for a divorce if:

- You are married;
- You or your spouse has lived in Illinois for at least 90 days; AND
- There is no other divorce case already filed and still pending anywhere else (not dismissed).

**NOTE:** If your spouse is on active military service, you can ask for a divorce, but the court might not be able to give you a divorce.

## What forms do I need to ask the court for a divorce?

Below are some of the common forms used in divorce cases. Depending on your specific situation, you may not need all of the forms listed or you may need other forms not listed here.

- **Petition for Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children):** asks the court for a divorce and gives information needed to begin a divorce case.
- **Certificate of Dissolution of Marriage\*:** lists information about your case that is sent to the Illinois Department of Public Health after your divorce is final.
- **Summons:** tells your spouse that you are asking the court for a divorce.
- **Entry of Appearance:** is completed by your spouse to tell the court that they do not need to receive a *Summons*.
- **Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children):** is used by the judge to grant or deny your divorce. If granted, the *Judgment* will also divide property, assign debt, and determine whether spousal support will be paid.

## Where can I find the forms I need?

\*You can get the Certificate of Dissolution of Marriage at the Circuit Clerk’s office.

You can find the rest of the forms at:

<http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/>.

## What information will help me fill out the court forms?

- Date you were married;
- Date you were physically separated;
- City, county, state, and country where you were married;
- Current home address for your spouse or other address where your spouse can be found;
- List of all personal property, including bank accounts that you and your spouse own together or separately;
- List of all real estate that you and your spouse have an interest in together or separately own (with or without a mortgage), purchasing contract for deed, etc.;
- List of all claims for money for injuries or damages that you or your spouse have suffered;
- List of all pension and retirement accounts that you or your spouse have; AND
- List of all the debts that you and your spouse have made since you got married, together or separately.

## What costs will I need to pay to ask the court for a divorce?

- **Filing Fee:** to file your forms with the Circuit Clerk of the Circuit Court in the county where you are filing your divorce.
- **Service Fee:** to serve the *Summons* on your spouse.
- **Certified Copy Fee (optional):** to get certified copies of the *Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)*.
- **Transcript Fee:** to get a written recording of your divorce court hearing. Some counties require this.

## What if I cannot afford to pay the costs?

- If you cannot afford to pay the fees, you can ask the court to file for free. Fill out the *Application for Waiver of Court Fees* to ask the court for a fee waiver. This is a separate set of forms you can find at: <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/>.

## Who will assist me during my divorce case?

- **Circuit Clerk:** you will file your divorce forms with the Circuit Clerk at the courthouse. The Circuit Clerk will accept your divorce forms, collect fees for filing your divorce case, and help schedule a court date. The Circuit Clerk cannot give you legal advice.
- **Sheriff:** you will ask the sheriff in the county where your spouse lives to serve a *Summons* on your spouse.
- **Judge:** you will see and speak to the judge at your court dates. The judge will decide whether you get a divorce. The judge cannot give you legal advice.

## When will I be divorced?

You are divorced when the judge signs the *Judgment for Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)*.

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## STEP 1: COMPLETE FORMS.

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### A. *Petition for Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)*

To help you fill out the form, the *Petition* has line-by-line instructions on the left-side of the form. Below is more helpful information.

#### Section 5(e): Reason for Divorce

All divorces are granted because of irreconcilable differences.

- **Irreconcilable Differences:** means you and your spouse do not get along anymore and you do not want to be married.
- If you have been separated 6 months or more, tell this to the judge.
- If you have been separated less than 6 months you will have to show the judge that you and your spouse:
  - Separated because you cannot get along anymore; AND
  - Tried to fix the problems in your marriage, but could not, or the problems are so bad that trying to fix them is not best for your family.

#### Section 7: Debts

You must tell the court if you and your spouse have debts from the marriage that are still owed. If you and your spouse cannot agree on how to divide the debt, the judge will decide who is responsible for each debt.

#### Sections 8, 9, 10 & 11: Personal Property, Real Estate Pension/Retirement Accounts & Money Claims

You must tell the court if you and your spouse own personal property (clothing/furniture), real estate, pension/retirement accounts, or money claims. If you and your spouse cannot agree on how to divide the property, the judge will decide who gets the property.

#### Section 12: Maintenance/Spousal Support

Maintenance/ spousal support is money paid from one spouse to the other on a regular basis.

- To get maintenance/spousal support you must show the court there is a good reason such as a long marriage, poor health, or an inability to support yourself.
- The judge is not required to order maintenance/spousal support.

#### Section G: Former Name

You must tell the court if you want to go back to using a former name.

- The judge can allow you to return to any name you have used before.

- The judge cannot allow you to begin using a new name you have never used before.
- If you want to use a name you have never used before you will have to start a separate court case by filing a *Request for Name Change (Adult)*. You can find the forms at: <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/>.

### B. Certificate of Dissolution of Marriage

You must complete this form and file it with the Circuit Clerk.

- Get this form from the Circuit Clerk.
- If you are representing yourself you will leave box 17 blank.
- Boxes 18 and 19 are for the Circuit Clerk to complete so leave those blank.

### C. Notice Form

Complete one of these forms:

1. **Summons:** use this if you are going to have the sheriff serve a copy of your forms on your spouse; OR
2. **Entry of Appearance:** use this if your spouse agrees that the sheriff does not have to serve them with a copy of your forms.

You can find these forms at:

<http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/>.

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## STEP 2: WHAT DO I DO AFTER I FILL OUT MY FORMS?

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### File your forms with the Circuit Clerk in the county where your court case should be filed.

- File your case in the county you live in or the county your spouse lives in.
- Make 3 copies of your forms.
- Call the Circuit Clerk and ask how much it will cost to file your forms and the types of payment (cash, check, credit, online) they take.
- If you cannot afford the fee, fill out and file an *Application for Waiver of Court Fees* found at: <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/>.
- File your forms with the Circuit Clerk in person. You may be able to file by mail or online depending on the county where you are filing your court case.
- How to File in Person
  - Go to the courthouse in the county where your court case should be filed.
  - Give the Circuit Clerk your original forms and the copies to stamp.
  - Ask the Circuit Clerk to date and sign the *Summons* OR file the *Entry of Appearance* signed by your spouse.
  - The Circuit Clerk will keep the original forms and give back your copies.
  - Pay the filing fee or file your *Application for Waiver of Court Fees*.

- How to File by Mail
  - If you will be asking for a fee waiver, there may be local rules requiring you to file your *Application for Waiver of Court Fees* in person. Ask the Circuit Clerk if you have to file your *Application for Waiver of Court Fees* in person.
  - In Cook County, you must go in person to have your fees waived.
  - If you do not need to appear in person, mail your original forms including your *Application for Waiver of Court Fees* and one copy to the Circuit Clerk.
  - If you do not need to have your fees waived, mail your original forms and one copy to the Circuit Clerk.
  - Include the *Letter to the Circuit Clerk* found at: <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/>.
  - Include a self-addressed and stamped envelope for the Circuit Clerk to mail the file stamped copy to you.
- How to File Online
  - Check your local Circuit Clerk's website to see if online filing is an option for you at: <http://www.ilcourtclerks.org/illinois-court-clerks/>.
  - Follow the instructions for filing online.
  - Pay the filing fee as instructed online or file your *Application for Waiver of Court Fees*.
  - Even if you can file online, you may have to appear in person to apply for a fee waiver. Ask the Circuit Clerk if you have to file your *Application for Waiver of Court Fees* in person.
- By Mail
  - Mail 2 copies of your *Summons* and your *Petition* to the sheriff's office.
  - Include the *Letter to the Sheriff* found at: <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/>.
  - Include a self-addressed and stamped envelope for the sheriff to mail the *Return of Service* to you.
  - Pay the sheriff's fees OR mail the sheriff a copy of your *Order for Waiver of Court Fees* (if you have one) to not be charged a fee.
- If your spouse does NOT live in the same county or state where the case was filed:
  - Get the name, address, and telephone number of the sheriff for the county or the state where your spouse lives.
  - Call the sheriff in that county to find out:
    - If it is the correct sheriff's department for the address where you want your spouse served;
    - The address where you should bring or mail your *Summons* and *Petition*;
    - The number of copies of your *Summons* and *Petition* to bring or send; AND
    - The sheriff's fees for service and if they will honor your *Order for Waiver of Court Fees* (if you have one). If the sheriff is in Illinois, the sheriff must honor the fee waiver.

**Serve your spouse with copies of your *Petition for Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children) and Summons*.**

- If your spouse signs an *Entry of Appearance*, you do not have to have your spouse served by the sheriff. You are ready to get a court date (skip to "Ask for a court date" below).
- If your spouse did not sign an *Entry of Appearance*, then staple the *Summons* to the front of the copy of *Petition* that will go to your spouse.
- In person or by mail, ask the sheriff in the county where the case was filed to serve your *Summons* and your *Petition* on your spouse.
- In Person
  - Bring 2 copies of your *Summons* and your *Petition* to the sheriff's office.
  - Pay the sheriff's fees OR give the sheriff a copy of your *Order for Waiver of Court Fees* (if you have one) to not be charged a fee.

**Confirm the sheriff served your *Petition* on your spouse.**

- After the sheriff serves your spouse with your *Petition*, they will fill out the *Return of Service* section of your *Summons* form and file it with the Circuit Clerk or mail it to you.
- If the sheriff files the *Summons* with the completed *Return of Service* directly with the Circuit Clerk, call the Circuit Clerk to find out if it has been filed. If it has been filed, ask the Circuit Clerk how to get a copy.
- If the sheriff mails the *Summons* with the completed *Return of Service* to you, make a copy for yourself, file the original with the Circuit Clerk, and have the Clerk file stamp your copy.
- If the sheriff was not able to serve your spouse, ask them why. You should try to fix the problem and then fill out another *Summons* and ask the sheriff to try to serve your spouse again.

**Wait for your spouse to file a response with the Circuit Clerk.**

- Once the sheriff serves your forms on your spouse, your spouse has 30 days to file an *Appearance* and a response with the Circuit Clerk.
- If you do not get a copy of your spouse's *Appearance* and response within the 30 days, call the Circuit Clerk to ask if there is an *Appearance* and response in the file. If there is, ask the Circuit Clerk to send you a copy or go to the Circuit Clerk's office to pick it up.

- If your spouse files an *Appearance* and response, you may then get a court date from the Circuit Clerk.
- After the 30 days from the date of service, you may get a court date from the Circuit Clerk whether or not your spouse filed an *Appearance* and response.

#### Ask for a court date.

- Ask the Circuit Clerk if you have to schedule a court date or if one will be scheduled automatically.
- If you need to schedule the court date, ask the Circuit Clerk how to do so. The Circuit Clerk may schedule the court date or you may have to speak with other court staff.
- When you get your court date, ask if the court will send notice of the hearing to your spouse or if you need to.
- If you need to send notice, complete a Notice of Court Date.

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## STEP 3: HOW TO GET READY FOR COURT AND PRESENT YOUR CASE TO THE JUDGE.

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Follow the instructions in **Part A** if you and your spouse agree on all issues and your spouse will attend the court date with you.

Follow the instructions in **Part B** if you and your spouse do not agree on all issues. This includes cases where your spouse has not filed an *Appearance* or response in the case and may not appear at the court date.

### A. AGREEMENT

#### Get ready for your court date.

- Decide and write down all the things you and your spouse have agreed on including:
  - What property will be awarded to each of you;
  - Who will be responsible for each of the debts; AND
  - Whether either of you will receive maintenance and how much.
- Follow the instructions on the *Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)* to complete only those sections you can fill out in advance.

#### Go to your court date.

- You should have either received a court date and time from the Circuit Clerk in person OR on a written notice from the Circuit Clerk. If you cannot find your court date and time, call the Circuit Clerk.

- Bring these items with you to court:
  - Copies of all the documents you filed with the Circuit Clerk; AND
  - A *Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)*.
- Get to the courthouse at least 30 minutes early.
- Go to the courtroom number listed on your court form. If your forms do not have a courtroom number look for a list of cases at the courthouse or ask the Circuit Clerk.
- Check in with the courtroom staff and wait for your name and case number to be called.
- When your case is called, walk to the judge and introduce yourself.

#### Present your case to the judge.

- Give the judge your prepared *Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)*.
- Tell the judge you and your spouse have an agreement and the details of that agreement.
- If the judge approves your agreement, the *Judgment* will be signed.
  - Get a copy of the *Judgment* that was entered by the judge.

### B. NO AGREEMENT

#### Get ready for your court date.

- Decide and write down:
  - What you want to ask the judge to do for you;
  - What you will say to the judge if asked to tell your side of the case; AND
  - Questions you have for witnesses, if there are any.
- Gather and make copies of pictures and documents you want the judge to see. Bring the original for the judge and one copy for you and your spouse in the case.
- If you want the judge to hear from other people, those people will have to come to court and be witnesses (*in most cases, you cannot bring in written statements of witnesses*).
- Follow the instructions on the *Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)* to complete only those sections you can fill out in advance.

#### Go to your court date.

- You should have either received a court date and time from the Circuit Clerk in person OR on a written notice from your spouse or Circuit Clerk. If you cannot find your court date and time, call the Circuit Clerk.
- Bring these items with you to court:
  - Copies of all the documents you filed with the Circuit Clerk;
  - Any witnesses you want to testify and any documents you want the judge to look at; AND
  - A *Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)*.

- Get to the courthouse at least 30 minutes early.
- Go to the courtroom number listed on your court form. If your forms do not have a courtroom number look for a list of cases at the courthouse or ask the Circuit Clerk.
- Check in with the courtroom staff and wait for your name and case number to be called.
- When your case is called, walk to the judge and introduce yourself.

### Present your case to the judge.

#### 1. If your spouse does not come to court.

- Give the judge your prepared *Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)*.
- Tell the judge what you want ordered in the *Judgment*.
- Tell the judge if you have documents to present or witnesses to testify.
- The judge will decide if documents and witnesses are necessary.
- The judge might ask you questions rather than look at documents and listen to witnesses.
- If the judge gives you the divorce, the *Judgment* will be signed.
  - Get a copy of the *Judgment* that was entered by the judge.
  - If your spouse was not in court to get a copy, you must send them a copy by 5:00 p.m. on the date you get the *Judgment*. Fill out and file a *Proof of Delivery* court form with the Circuit Clerk to show that you sent the copy. You can find the *Proof of Delivery* at: <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/>.

#### 2. If your spouse comes to court.

- Tell the judge your side of the case and answer questions.
- Show evidence including documents and photos.
- Give a copy to the judge and a copy to your spouse. Be prepared to explain why the document or photo is important.
- Question witnesses.
  - Tell the judge the name of your witnesses.
  - Ask the witnesses questions you prepared in advance.
  - The judge and your spouse can ask questions of your witnesses when you are done.
- The judge decides whether the documents, photos, or witness testimony can be considered in making a decision about your case.
- Tell the judge you have brought a *Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)*.

**What do I do when my spouse presents their case?** (If your spouse does not appear for the court date, this part will not happen.)

- Your spouse will also get to present their case by testifying, giving the judge evidence, and questioning witnesses.
- You will get to see any documents and photos your spouse brings to court. If you do not think the judge should consider them in making a decision about your case, tell the judge why.
- You may ask questions of your spouse's witnesses. Write down your questions while they are speaking to your spouse or judge.

**What happens after both sides present their case?** (If your spouse does not appear for the court date, this will happen after you present your case to the judge.)

- The judge has to make a decision. The decision is called the *Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)*.
- If the judge needs more information to make a decision, the judge may set up another court date. Make sure you understand what information is needed and get it before the new court date.
- If the judge needs more time to make a decision, the judge will let you know the decision later by mailing a court order or at another court date.
- If the judge has enough information, the judge may decide right then and fill out the *Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)*.
  - Get a copy of the *Judgment* that was entered by the judge.

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## STEP 4: WHAT DO I DO AFTER THE COURT DATE?

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1. If you got permission to go back to a former name, ask the Circuit Clerk to certify your copy of the *Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)*. There may be a fee for this.
2. The Secretary of State and Social Security Administration will want to see a certified copy of the judgment before changing your name in their records.
3. Keep your copies of all of your court papers in a safe place. If you lose any court papers that were filed with the Circuit Clerk, you can get another copy there. There may be a charge for those copies.
4. In Cook County, and in some other counties, the judge may ask you to get a transcript of the court hearing from the court reporter for the court file. Some judges will not sign your *Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (Divorce No Children)* until you return the transcript to the court.

5. In Cook County, if the judge orders you to get a transcript follow these steps:
  - a. If you have a fee waiver, ask the judge to enter an Order for Free Transcript;
  - b. Call the court reporter's office at (312) 603-8405 to make sure the transcript is ready; if you do not have the Order for Free Transcript, ask what you will be charged for the transcript;
  - c. When the transcript is ready, pick it up at 69 W. Washington St., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago; you will need to bring the Order for Free Transcript or pay the transcript fee; AND
  - d. Sign the last page of the transcript and return it to the judge's clerk in the courtroom where you got the divorce.
6. In other counties, if the judge orders you to get a transcript speak with the Circuit Clerk for more information about how to do that.
7. Send a copy of the *Judgment* to your spouse either by hand or by mail and file a *Proof of Delivery* with the Circuit Clerk. You can find the *Proof of Delivery* at: <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/>.



|  |  |                             |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>STATE OF ILLINOIS,<br/>CIRCUIT COURT</b><br><br>_____ <b>COUNTY</b>   | <b>PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF<br/>MARRIAGE / CIVIL UNION</b><br>(DIVORCE NO CHILDREN)   | <i>For Court Use Only</i>   |
| <b>Instructions ▼</b><br>Enter above the county name where you will file this case.<br>Enter your name as Petitioner.<br>Enter the name of your spouse/partner as Respondent.<br>The Circuit Clerk will add a Case Number. | _____<br><b>Petitioner</b> ( <i>First, middle, last name</i> )<br><br>v.<br><br>_____<br><b>Respondent</b> ( <i>First, middle, last name</i> ) | _____<br><b>Case Number</b> |

Read the *How to Get a Divorce (No Children)* for definitions and how to go court.

In **2a**, if you check "Yes," enter the date you started living in Illinois.

In **2b**, if you check "Yes," enter the date the Respondent started living in Illinois.

In **3a**, enter your age.

In **3b**, check all boxes that apply to you. If you are employed, enter your job title.

In **3c**, if you want to go back to a former name, check "Yes" and enter that name.

In **4a**, enter the Respondent's age.

In **4b**, check the box that applies. If you check "Yes," enter the Respondent's current complete address. If you check "No," you must have tried to find Respondent's address.

In **4c**, check all boxes that apply to the Respondent. If the Respondent is employed, enter his/her job title.

**1. I am the Petitioner in this case.**

**2. I am providing the following information about where I live and where the Respondent (*my spouse/partner*) lives:**

a. I live in Illinois:  
 Yes, since: \_\_\_\_\_  No  
*Date*

b. Respondent lives in Illinois:  
 Yes, since: \_\_\_\_\_  No  Do not know  
*Date*

**3. I am providing the following information about myself:**

a. Age: \_\_\_\_\_

b. I am employed (*check all that apply*):  
 Yes  No  I receive Social Security benefits  
 I am employed as: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Job Title*

c. I would like to go back to using my maiden or a former name:  
 Yes  No  
 Former Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last*

**4. I am providing the following information about the Respondent (*my spouse/partner*):**

a. Age: \_\_\_\_\_

b. I know the Respondent's current address:  
 Yes Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street, Apt #* *City* *State* *ZIP*  
 No, but I tried to find the Respondent and could not find his/her current address.

c. The Respondent is employed (*check all that apply*):  
 Yes  No  Do not know  
 Respondent receives Social Security benefits  
 The Respondent is employed as: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Job Title*

In **4d**, check the box that applies.  
If the Respondent is on active duty with the military, you cannot use this form, unless the Respondent files an appearance.

In **5**, check whether it is a marriage or civil union.

In **5a**, enter the date you were married/united.

In **5b**, enter the county, state, and country where the marriage/civil union happened.

In **5c**, check "Yes" if this is the first time you or Respondent have filed for divorce from each other.

In **5d**, enter the date you separated.

In **7a**, check "Yes" if you or the Respondent have unpaid debts from after the date of the marriage/civil union. Check "No" only if you are sure there are no unpaid debts.

In **8a**, check "Yes" if either of you got any personal property (clothing, car, furniture, etc.) after the date of the marriage/civil union. Check "No" only if you are sure there is no personal property.

In **9a**, check "Yes" if together you and the Respondent own a home, have a mortgage, or have a contract for deed.

In **9b**, check "Yes" if you own a home, have a mortgage, or have a contract for deed.

In **9c**, check "Yes" if the Respondent owns a home, has a mortgage, or has a contract for deed.

In **10a**, check the box that applies to you.

In **10b**, check the box that applies to the Respondent.

d. The Respondent is currently on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States of America:  
 Yes     No     Do not know

**5. I am providing the following information about the**  Marriage     Civil Union:

- a. We were married/united on: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*
- b. We were married/united in: \_\_\_\_\_  
*County State Country*
- c. This is the first time that either the Respondent or I have filed for divorce from each other in Illinois or any other state:  
 Yes     No
- d. We have been separated since: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*
- e. Irreconcilable differences have caused the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage or civil union.

**6. No children were born or adopted during this marriage/civil union and neither party is pregnant.**

**7. I am providing the following information about the debts that the Respondent and I have after the date we got married/united (both individually and as a couple):**

- a. The Respondent and I have debts we got after the date of our marriage/civil union that are still owed (either together or individually):  
 Yes     No

**8. I am providing the following information about the personal property including bank accounts that the Respondent and I own (both individually and as a couple):**

- a. The Respondent and I own personal property and/or bank accounts obtained during the marriage/civil union:  
 Yes     No

**9. I am providing the following information about real estate:**

- a. The Respondent and I own or are buying real estate together:  
 Yes     No
- b. I own or am buying real estate separately:  
 Yes     No
- c. The Respondent owns or is buying real estate separately:  
 Yes     No     Do not know

**10. I am providing the following information about pension/retirement accounts:**

- a. I have pension or retirement accounts:  
 Yes     No
- b. The Respondent has pension or retirement accounts:  
 Yes     No     Do not know

In **11**, check yes if you have any claims that you are owed for money damages or injuries, whether you have filed the case or not.

In **12a**, check "Yes" if you can support yourself. Check "No" if you need support from the Respondent.

In **12b**, check "Yes" if the Respondent can support himself/herself. Otherwise check "No" or "Do not know."

**11. I have a claim for money for injuries or damages that I have suffered** (*worker's compensation, personal injury, accident, etc.*)

Yes  No

**12. I am providing the following information about maintenance/spousal support:**

a. I am able to support myself without maintenance/spousal support:

Yes  No

b. Respondent is able to support himself/herself without maintenance or spousal support:

Yes  No  Do not know

In **F**, check "Me" if you want to get spousal support from the Respondent; check "Respondent" if you want to pay spousal support to the Respondent; or check "Neither" if you do not want to get or pay spousal support.

In **G**, check "Yes" if you want to go back to using a former name.

**I ASK THE COURT TO ORDER:**

**A.** A Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union (*Divorce No Children*) for me and my spouse/partner.

**B.** That I get to keep all of my non-marital/non-civil union property.

**C.** That the Respondent gets to keep all of his/her non-marital/non-civil union property.

**D.** A fair division of the marital/civil union property.

**E.** A fair division of the debts obtained during the marriage/civil union.

**F.** That maintenance/spousal support be awarded to:

Me  Respondent  Neither

**G.** That after the divorce I be allowed to return to using my former name:

Yes  No  Not applicable

Under the Code of Civil Procedure, [735 ILCS 5/1-109](#), making a statement on this form that you know to be false is perjury, a Class 3 Felony.

**I certify that everything in the *Petition For Dissolution Of Marriage / Civil Union (Divorce No Children)* is true and correct. I understand that making a false statement on this form is perjury and has penalties provided by law under [735 ILCS 5/1-109](#).**

After you finish this form, sign and print your name.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Your Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address*

Enter your complete current address and telephone number. If you need to keep your address secret from your spouse because of domestic violence, you may use another address. That address must be one at which you can receive mail about the case.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Your Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City, State, ZIP*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Telephone*

**GETTING COURT DOCUMENTS BY EMAIL:** If you agree to receive court documents by email, check the box below and enter your email address. You should use an email account that you do not share with anyone else and that you check every day. If you do not check your email every day, you may miss important information or notice of court dates. Other parties may still send you court documents by mail.

I agree to receive court documents by email.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Email*

|  |  |                             |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>STATE OF ILLINOIS,<br/>CIRCUIT COURT</b><br><br>_____ COUNTY  | <b>JUDGMENT OF DISSOLUTION OF<br/>MARRIAGE / CIVIL UNION</b><br>(DIVORCE NO CHILDREN)  | <i>For Court Use Only</i>   |
| <b>Instructions ▼</b><br>Enter above the county name where you will file this case.<br>Enter your name as Petitioner.<br>Enter the name of your spouse/partner as Respondent.<br>Enter the Case Number given by the Circuit Clerk. | _____<br><b>Petitioner</b> ( <i>First, middle, last name</i> )<br><br>V.<br><br>_____<br><b>Respondent</b> ( <i>First, middle, last name</i> ) | _____<br><b>Case Number</b> |

|   |
|---|
| <b>DO NOT</b> complete this section. The judge will complete it at the court date.  |
| <b>DO NOT</b> complete 1a and 1b. The judge will complete them at the court date.   |
| <b>DO NOT</b> complete 2a and 2b. The judge will complete them at the court date.   |
| In 2c, check the box that applies to the Respondent. If the Respondent is on active duty, you cannot get a divorce unless the Respondent files an appearance. |
| <b>DO NOT</b> complete 3. The judge will complete it at the court date. The term "Parties" refers to the Petitioner and the Respondent.                       |
| In 4a, check the box that applies to you.   |
| In 4b, check the box that applies to the Respondent.  |
| In 5, check whether it is a marriage or civil union.  |
| In 5a, enter the date you were married/united.  |
| In 5b, enter place the union took place.  |

A court date was held on the *Petition for Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union* filed by the Petitioner. The court heard the testimony of  Petitioner  Respondent and considered all of the evidence and the relevant parts of the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act (750 ILCS 5/101 *et seq.*).

**The Court makes the following findings of fact:**

**1. Present in Court**

- a. Petitioner appeared:  Yes  No  
 represented by Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Respondent appeared:  Yes  No  
 represented by Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Jurisdiction**

- a. This court has jurisdiction of the subject matter and  Petitioner  Respondent
- b. Respondent is in default:  Yes  No
- c. Respondent is currently on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States of America:  Yes  No  Unknown

**3. Agreement**

Parties are in agreement with the terms of this *Judgment*.  Yes  No

**4. Residency Requirement**

- a. Petitioner has been living in Illinois at least 90 days immediately preceding the filing of the *Petition* or immediately preceding the making of these findings:  Yes  No
- b. Respondent has been living in Illinois at least 90 days immediately preceding the filing of the *Petition* or immediately preceding the making of these findings:  Yes  No

**5. Information about the:**  Marriage  Civil Union

- a. Parties were married/united on: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*
- b. Parties were married/united in: \_\_\_\_\_  
*County* *State* *Country*

**6. Grounds for Dissolution**

Irreconcilable differences have caused the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage or civil union and efforts at reconciliation have failed or future attempts at reconciliation would be impracticable and not in the best interests of the family.

**7. There are no children born or adopted of this marriage/civil union and neither party is pregnant.**

**8. Real Estate**

a. Parties have an interest in real estate, which was obtained during the marriage/civil union:  
 Yes  No

b. The address of the real estate is:

\_\_\_\_\_ *Street, Apt #* *City* *State* *ZIP*

c. A legal description of the real estate is attached to this *Judgment*:

Yes  No

d. Plaintiff or Respondent has an interest in non-marital real estate:  Yes  No

I have listed non-marital real estate on the attached *Non-Marital Real Estate* form.

**9. Maintenance/Spousal Support**

a. These parties have waived the right to maintenance/spousal support:

Petitioner  Respondent

b. This party is entitled to maintenance/spousal support:

Petitioner  Respondent  Neither party

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS:**

**A. The parties are awarded a *Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union* and the bonds of matrimony/civil union existing between Petitioner and Respondent are hereby dissolved.**

**B. Debts and Liabilities**

Each party will be responsible for 50% of each joint debt. (*unless listed in the chart below*)

Each party will be responsible for all of the debts in their own name. (*unless listed in the chart below*)

These debts shall be paid by the parties as follows:

|    | Debt<br>(Name of Creditor) | Amount<br>Owed | To be paid by:           |                          |                          |
|----|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|    |                            |                | Petitioner               | Respondent               | Both Equally             |
| 1. |                            | \$             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. |                            | \$             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. |                            | \$             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. |                            | \$             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. |                            | \$             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. |                            | \$             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. |                            | \$             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. |                            | \$             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

There is an *Additional Debts & Liabilities* form attached:  Yes  No

**DO NOT** complete section **8a**. The judge will complete it at the court date.

In **8b**, enter the address of the real estate.

In **8c**, check the box that applies. If you have a legal description of the real estate, attach it to this *Judgment*.

In **8d**, check yes if either of you owned real estate before you were married/united. Complete and attach the *Non-Marital Real Estate* form.

**DO NOT** complete sections **9a** and **9b**. The judge will complete them at the court date.

In **B**, **DO NOT** check any boxes. The judge will check boxes at the court date.

**Chart: DO** fill in the name of creditor and amount owed for debts after the date of marriage/civil union in the chart. **DO NOT** check who is to pay the debt.

If you need more room to list debts check "Yes." Complete and attach the *Additional Debts & Liabilities* form.

Parties shall indemnify and hold the other party harmless for the debts they are assigned.

**DO NOT** complete C.  
The judge will complete it at the court date.

**C. Pension and Retirement Accounts**

- Each party is awarded the pension and retirement accounts in his/her own name.
- Petitioner is awarded \_\_\_\_\_ % of the marital/civil union portion of Respondent's pension/retirement accounts.
- Respondent is awarded \_\_\_\_\_ % of the marital/civil union portion of Petitioner's pension/retirement accounts.
- Petitioner  Respondent shall prepare a Qualified Domestic Relations Order.
- Other orders: \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT** complete D.  
The judge will complete it at the court date.

**D. Real Estate** (*"marital real estate" is an interest in real estate obtained during the marriage or civil union.*)

- Petitioner  Respondent is awarded the marital real estate and shall pay the other party \$\_\_\_\_\_ for his/her interest in the real estate.
- The marital real estate shall be sold.  
The net proceeds of the sale (sale price minus costs of sale) shall be divided with Petitioner to receive \_\_\_\_\_ % Respondent to receive \_\_\_\_\_ %
- Until the marital real estate is sold, mortgage payments will be paid by  Petitioner \_\_\_\_\_ %  Respondent \_\_\_\_\_ %
- Until the marital real estate is sold, insurance will be paid by  Petitioner \_\_\_\_\_ %  Respondent \_\_\_\_\_ %
- Until the marital real estate is sold, cost of maintenance will be paid by  Petitioner \_\_\_\_\_ %  Respondent \_\_\_\_\_ %
- Petitioner  Respondent is entitled to claim mortgage payments for federal and state tax purposes.
- Petitioner  Respondent is entitled to claim property tax payments for federal and state tax purposes.
- Petitioner  Respondent shall refinance the debt on the real estate to remove the other party from the obligation by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*
- Petitioner  Respondent shall sign a quitclaim deed transferring his/her interest to the other party by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*
- Other orders: \_\_\_\_\_

In E, **DO NOT** check any boxes. The judge will check boxes at the court date.

**E. Personal Property and Bank Accounts**

- Parties shall keep the property and bank accounts in his/her own name or possession.
- Personal property of the marriage/civil union shall be divided as follows:

**Chart:** **DO** list the personal property obtained during the marriage/civil union in the chart. **DO NOT** check who gets the property.

| Personal Property and Bank Accounts<br><i>(Be specific in your description of each piece of property)</i> |  | Property goes to:        |                          |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|   |  | Petitioner               | Respondent               |
| 1.  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2.  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3.  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

|   |  |                          |                          |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5.  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6.  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7.  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| There is an <i>Additional Personal Property &amp; Bank Accounts</i> form attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |  |                          |                          |

If you need more room to list property check "Yes."  
Complete and attach the *Additional Personal Property & Bank Accounts* form.

- Any personal property exchange required by this order shall take place within 30 days of the date of this *Judgment*.
- Other orders: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT** complete F. The judge will complete it at the court date.

**F. Maintenance/Spousal Support**

- Parties are forever barred from claiming maintenance/spousal support from the other.
- Petitioner shall pay to Respondent maintenance/spousal support in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_ for the following period: \_\_\_\_\_ after which maintenance/spousal support shall be  barred or  \_\_\_\_\_
- Respondent shall pay to Petitioner maintenance/spousal support in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_ for the following period: \_\_\_\_\_ after which maintenance/spousal support shall be  barred or  \_\_\_\_\_
- Other orders: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In G, if you or the Respondent want to go back to a former name, check the box and enter the former last name.

**G. Former Name**

- Petitioner is permitted to resume using the former last name of:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Former Last Name*
- Respondent is permitted to resume using the former last name of:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Former Last Name*

**DO NOT** complete H. The judge will complete it at the court date.

**H. Other Relief**

- None
- Relief as follows: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I. This court reserves jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter for purposes of enforcing this *Judgment*.**

**DO NOT** complete this section. The judge will sign and date here.

**ENTERED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Judge*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*